

## Summary of DAT Conference Call 10/14/2008

Participants: SGreene(DWR), NHindman(FWS), JSpeegle(FWS), JOber(DWR), JWhite(DWR), JWilde(DWR), FCarillo(FWS), LBartoo(FWS), EGleason(DFG), AChu(DWR), RShahcheraghi(DWR), ADvorack(SWC), JAdib-Samii(DFG), GAasen(DFG), PBrandes(FWS), RSilva(BR), SKong(CCWD)

### Conclusions and Recommendation

NMFS has calculated a very preliminary Juvenile Production Estimate (JPE) of 553,000 entering the Delta. A final JPE will be available later this fall.

Juvenile winter run Chinook recoveries at RBDD declined over that last two weeks to about 6,000/day. Passage to date (July 1-Oct 6) is estimated at 1.05 million, the lowest since 2002, and similar to last year. Juvenile winter run Chinook are also being recovered at GCID.

The September Fall Mid-water trawl delta smelt index is 2. DFG caught 3 delta smelt in September in the lower Sacramento River and western Delta. The October Midwater trawl is in progress. So far DFG caught 2 delta smelt in Montezuma Sl., and 10 longfin smelt between San Pablo Bay and the eastern Delta.

No operational changes were recommended at this time.

**Next DAT Conference Call Tuesday, 10/28/2006, 9:00 am - 11:00 pm. 916/657-4111.**

### Chinook Monitoring

#### Upper Sacramento River

Winter run Adult Counts – Based on carcass survey data, the numbers of carcasses this year is slightly lower than last year, and is the lowest count since 2003. NMFS calculated a very preliminary Juvenile Production Estimate (JPE) of 553,000 entering the Delta. A final JPE will be available later this fall.

Red Bluff Diversion Dam – Juvenile winter run passage averaged 6,000/day for the past week and has been decreasing for the last two weeks. The passage to

date this season, Jul 1 through Oct 6, is 1.05 million. This is the lowest since 2003 and similar to last year.

Late fall Chinook passage was approximately 568/day. Steelhead passage was approximately 150/day. No fall- or spring-run passage.

Red Bluff flow is 6,800 cfs and the water is clear. Due to the storm two weeks ago, flow increased slightly to about 7,500 cfs, but is back down now. There was no significant increase in fish capture associated with the storm.

FWS posts biweekly reports on the Bay-Delta and Tributaries Project website, at [http://baydelta.ca.gov/Php/Special\\_Reports/red\\_bluff.php](http://baydelta.ca.gov/Php/Special_Reports/red_bluff.php)

Mill Creek – DFG will install the rotary screw trap once flows increase.

Deer Creek – DFG will install the rotary screw trap once flows increase.

Butte Creek –

GCID - Catch of older juvenile Chinook averaged 45/day, ranging from 13 to 90. No steelhead were caught.

Knights Landing – DFG installed the rotary screw trap 10/3/2008, but they have not caught salmonids yet.

Delta Monitoring

In the last week 1 older juvenile Chinook and 1 splittail was recovered at Chipps Island. Two delta smelt were recovered in the Central Delta seines.

Sacramento Mid-water Trawl – FWS changed from the mid-water trawl to the Kodiak trawl on 10/1, as usual. They are sampling 5 days per week. No species of special interest.

Lower Sacramento River seine -2 sample days, 8 samples. No other species of special interest.

Sacramento Area seine – FWS is sampling 5 days/week. No species of special interest.

North Delta seine - 2 sample days, 12 samples. No species of special interest.

Central Delta seine - 2 sample days, 15 samples.  
FWS caught 2 delta smelt at Sandy Beach, 56 mm and 58 mm. No other species of special interest.

South Delta seine - 2 sample days, 14 samples. No species of special interest.

Mossdale Kodiak Trawl - 5 sample days, 50 samples. No species of special interest.

San Joaquin River seine - 1 sample day, 4 samples. No species of special interest.

Chippis Island Midwater Trawl – FWS is sampling 3 days/week. In the last 4 days, 51 samples, FWS caught 1 adult Chinook and 1 splittail. No other species of special interest.

Bay seine - 2 sample days, 9 samples. No species of special interest.

### Delta Smelt Monitoring

Fall Mid-water Trawl – The September FMWT survey is complete. The delta smelt September index is 3. Two delta smelt were caught in the lower Sacramento River and Cache Slough. The October FMWT is occurring now, and will be finished this week. DFG has caught 2 delta smelt in Montezuma Slough, and 10 longfin smelt between San Pablo Bay and eastern Suisun Marsh.

### Salvage Facilities

Chinook – None

Steelhead – None

Delta smelt – None

Splittail – None

Longfin smelt - None

Green Sturgeon – None

There were a lot of threadfin shad at the CVP which caused them to reduce pumping temporarily for a few days.

The DFG Salvage Database can be accessed at this ftp site. <ftp://ftp.delta.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/>.

### Salmon Studies

North/Central Delta Salmon Out-migration Study – this study will occur between the middle of November through the end of January. 6,000 Chinook smolts will be acoustically tagged and released in the northern Delta. Half will be released in the Sacramento River at the Tower Bridge, ¼ at Ryde, and ¼ in Georgiana Slough. USGS will measure survival rates and 3-dimensional movement at Georgiana Slough and at the DCC. There are 3 DCC gate treatments, open, closed and closed at night but open during the day. We are aware of concerns regarding the DCC operations, but need variability in the environmental conditions. The DCC is scheduled to open in late December.

FWS emigration studies – FWS is conducting an acoustically tagged juvenile Chinook study on addition to the above.

They will be releasing 585 fish in Nov and Jan, at Sacramento and Georgiana Slough. There will be 2 replicates of each DCC gates open and closed. FWS ACOUSTICALLY TAGGED FISH ARE CAUGHT IN MONITORING PROGRAMS, THEY SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE RIVER FOR THE ACOUSTIC STUDY. This study replaces the traditional Delta Action 8 experiment this year.

### Coleman Late Fall Hatchery releases

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) proposes to modify the timing of releases of general production late-fall Chinook from the Coleman National Fish Hatchery (NFH). General production late-fall Chinook salmon are currently released into Battle Creek en- masse, as yearlings, during early January. The proposed revision to the release strategy calls for general production late-fall Chinook to be liberated into Battle Creek over a range of dates, extending from early December to early January (approximately December 1- January 10). Late-fall Chinook will continue to be released en-masse and as yearlings. The intent of this revised release schedule is to provide additional operational flexibility at the hatchery while, at the same time, encouraging rapid downstream migrations, thereby maintaining a low likelihood for imparting detrimental effects to naturally produced juvenile salmonids. Releases will be timed to occur during high flow events in the Sacramento River and during periods when the Delta Cross Channel gates are closed.

### Fall Attractions Flows on the San Joaquin

The fall pulse flows on the San Joaquin tributaries is occurring. The Stanislaus is at 850 cfs now, and is scheduled to decrease soon. The Merced is scheduled to peak between 10/10 and 10/12. The Tuolumne is scheduled for a small pulse on 10/21.

### Head of Old River and Agricultural Barriers

Fall HORB tentatively scheduled for closure on 10-15-08. Middle River closed with all culvert flap-gates operating tidally. Old River closed with 3 culvert flap-gates tied open and 6 tidal. Grant Line Canal fully closed on with all culvert flap-gates tidally operated.

### Operations

#### SWP -

CCFB – 600cfs

Oroville - 1,900 cfs

X2 - >81 km

E/I - 3-day ~41%

San Luis - ~164 taf, capacity is 1.062 taf

#### CVP -

Tracy PP – 3,500 cfs

DCC - open

Trinity –

Clear Creek -

Keswick – 6,500cfs

Nimbus – 1,000 cfs

Goodwin – 850 cfs

San Luis - 60 taf. Capacity is 966 taf

#### Flows

Sacramento River at Freeport ~ 8,281 cfs

San Joaquin River at Vernalis ~ 1,317 cfs

Delta Outflow ~ 3,800 cfs

### Delta Water Quality

Water quality is good.

#### October Water Quality Standards –

Delta Outflow – monthly average  $\geq$  3,000cfs, 7-day average  $\geq$  2,000cfs.

E/I Ratio – 14-day average = 65%

Contra Costa Canal – Cl  $\leq$  150 mg/L – this standard has been met.

South Delta – 30-day average EC  $\leq$  1.0

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